CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An active graphical control comprising:

at least one graphical element with at least a first pixel the pixel having a first color;

a means for detecting at least one color in a background where the at least one color is near the first pixel;

the at least one pixel configured to change to at least a second color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one color in the background is below a predetermined level.

2. The active graphical control of claim 1 where there is at least a second color in the background near the graphical element, and the at least one graphical element changes to a third color at the place where the second color is near the graphical element.

3. The active graphical control of claim 1 where the second color is user selectable.

4. The active graphical control of claim 1 where the second color is selected to maximize the contrast against the background color.

5. The active graphical control of claim 1 where there is at least a second color in the background near the first pixel, and the second color of the pixel is chosen to maintain a predetermined level of contrast between both the first color in the background and the at least second color in the background.

6. The active graphical control of claim 1 where the graphical element is text.

7. An active graphical control comprising:

a first graphical element with at least a first color and having an outer perimeter;

a means for detecting a at least one background color where the at least one background color is adjacent to the outer perimeter;

the first graphical element configured to change the at least one background color to a second background color when the contrast between the at least one background color and the first color is below a predetermined level.

8. The active graphical control of claim 7 where there is at least a third background color adjacent to the outer perimeter of the graphical element, and the at least one graphical element changes the third background color to a fourth background color at the place where the third background color is adjacent to the outer perimeter of the graphical element.

9. An active graphical control comprising:

a first graphical element with at least a first color and having at least one transparent component;

a means for detecting at least one background color where the at least one background color is underneath the transparent component;

the first graphical element configured to change the at least one background color to a different background color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one background color is below a predetermined level.

10. The active graphical control of claim 9 where there is at least a second background color underneath the transparent component, and the second background color changes to a third background color.

11. A method for displaying an active graphical control comprising:

(a) detecting at least one background color near the active graphical control;

(b) determining a contrast between the at least one background color and at least one color in the graphical control;

(c) changing the at least one color in the graphical control to at least a second color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one background color is below a predetermined level.

12. The method of claim 11 where steps (a) through (c) are repeated each time the background color changes.

13. The method of claim 11 where steps (a) through (c) are repeated each time the graphical control is moved.

14. The method of claim 11 where there is at least a second background color near the graphical control, and the second color of the graphical control is chosen to maintain a predetermined level of contrast between both the first background color and the at least second background color.

15. A method for displaying an active graphical control comprising:

(a) displaying a graphical control against a background;

(b) determining at least one contrast level between the background and the graphical control;

(c) changing the visual appearance of the graphical control when the at least one contrast level is below a predetermined amount.

16. A method for displaying an active graphical control comprising:

(a) detecting at least one background color adjacent to the active graphical control;

(b) determining a contrast between the at least one background color and at least one color in the active graphical control;

(c) changing the at least one background color adjacent to the active graphical control to a second color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one background color is below a predetermined level.

17. The method of claim 15 where steps (a) through (c) are repeated each time the background adjacent to the graphical control changes comprising.

18. A program configured to display an active graphical control comprising:

a first graphical element with at least a first color and having an outer perimeter;

at least one background color where the at least one background color is adjacent to the outer perimeter;

the first graphical element configured to change to at least a second color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one background color is below a predetermined level.

19. The program of claim 17 where there is at least a second background color adjacent to the outer perimeter of the graphical element, and the second color of the graphical element is chosen to maintain a predetermined level of contrast between both the first background color and the at least second background color.

20. A program configured to display an active graphical control comprising:

a first graphical element with at least a first color and having an outer perimeter;

at least one background color where the at least one background color is adjacent to the outer perimeter;

the first graphical element configured to change the at least one background color to a second background color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one background color is below a predetermined level.

21. A program configured to display an active graphical control comprising:

a first graphical element with at least a first color and having at least one transparent component;

at least one background color where the at least one background color is underneath the transparent component;

the first graphical element configured to change the at least one background color to a second background color when the contrast between the first color and the at least one background color is below a predetermined level.

22. A portable digital device comprising:

a display area;

a microprocessor configured to display at least one background on the display area, the micro processor also configured to display at least one graphical control on the display area over the background, the graphical control having at least one color, where at least one color of the displayed graphical control is chosen to create a predetermined level of contrast between the background and the displayed graphical control.

23. The portable digital device of claim 21 where the microprocessor is configured to change the color of the graphical control when the background changes to a color that has a level of contrast with the graphical control below a predetermined level.

24. A digital camera comprising:

a display area;

a microprocessor configured to display at least one image on the display area, the micro processor also configured to display at least one graphical control on the display area over the displayed image, where at least one color of the displayed graphical control is chosen to create a predetermined level of contrast between the images and the displayed graphical control.

25. The digital camera of claim 23 where the at least one color is selected to maximize the contrast against the image.

26. The digital camera of claim 23 where the graphical control is text.